



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,625	01/31/2004	Leone Dall'asta	SAIC 20.931 (100788-00071)	1735
26304	7590	08/31/2005	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			SOLOLA, TAOFIQ A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	
DATE MAILED: 08/31/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/776,625

Applicant(s)

DALL'ASTA ET AL.

Examiner

Taofiq A. Solola

Art Unit

1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-23,26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-14,24,25 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1626

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application.

Claims 15-23, 26 are drawn to non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-14, 24-25, 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification lacks adequate support for the claims. The specification fails to provide support that any or all known "optically active acids" are applicable in the instant process. The term R' in claim 1, line 6, is not defined in the specification so as to determine the structures of compounds that are included and/or excluded by the term. The term is defined with the phraseology "such as" on line 15, page 5 of the specification. Therefore, the listed compounds are deemed examples only. However, "[e]xemplification is not an explicit definition." Claim Interpretation, 2004. The specification must set forth any definition explicitly with reasonable clarity, precision and deliberateness, *Teflex Inc. v. Ficosa North Ame. Corp.*, 63 USPQ2d 1374 1381 (Fed Cir, 2001). Applicant must show possession of the invention by describing it with all the claimed limitations. *Lookwood v. American Airlines Inc.* 107 F.3d 1565, 1572, 41 USPQ2d 1961, 1966 (Fed Cir. 1997). By amending the claims to recite the specific

Art Unit: 1626

optically active acids and compounds represented by R' having support in the specification the rejection would be overcome.

As now amended, claims 1-14, 24-25, 27-33 lack support in the specification. According to the specification, page 3, hydroxylamine is reacted with formula I in step (a) while 4-fluorophenylmagnesium is reacted with formula III in step (b). According to the specification, page 4, step (c) requires reacting 3-(dimethylamino)propyl magnesium halide with formula (IV) in order to obtain formula (V). Step (e) should have been optional because it is not required when R is H, that is, no substitution. These are not the case in claim 1.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-14, 24-25, 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-14, 24-25, 27-33 are rejected as being indefinite for reasons set forth above under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Applicant's arguments filed 7/27/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant contends that optically active acids and R' are defined in the specification. This is not persuasive for reasons set forth above and because it would imply reading the specification into the claims contrary to several courts' decisions and the Office practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 1626

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-14, 24-25, 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guazzi et al., WO 02/48133.

Applicant claims a process of making citalopram from 5-formylphthalide as set forth in steps (a) to (f) in claim 1. In an optional embodiment the H of OH in hydrozylamine (a reagent) can be replaced with any substituent, which is inert under Grignard reaction condition. See the specification at page 5, lines 14-15. Applicant also claims enantiomeric separation of formula V or VI with tartaric acid or camphosulfonic acid.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP §2141.01)

Guazzi et al., teach a similar process of making citalopram (formula I) from 5-formylphthalide (formula VIII). See the reaction scheme at page 4. Guazzi et al., also teach enantiomeric separation of formula V or VI according to Boegesoe et al. US 4,943,590, (col. 3, step (b)) which is with tartaric or camphosulfonic acid. See page 6, lines 17-21.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP §2141.02)

The difference between the instant invention and that of Guazzi et al., is that the first step in applicant's process is the 2nd last step in the process of Guazzi et al. Additionally, when there is no substitution, the instant step (a) is the same as Guazzi's step 7, step (b) is step 4, step (c) is step 5, steps d and f are described in step 8 by Guazzi et al. Steps e and e' are options. The substituents (R') are taught by Guazzi et al., on page 5, last line to page 6, line 4. Also, Applicant does not perform the first step of Guazzi et al., i.e. the conversion of 5-formylphthalide to the corresponding acetal (formula VII).

Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP §2142.2413)

Art Unit: 1626

All the reagents in the instant steps are the same as that of Guazzi et al.

Therefore, the instant process is no more than a selective combination of the process of Guazzi et al., done in a manner obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Mostovych*, 144 USPQ 38 (CCPA 1964).

Applicant's arguments filed 7/27/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant contends that the Examiner fails to set forth the steps that applicant selectively combined. This is not persuasive for reasons set forth above.

Priority Document

Applicant claims priority to a PCT and a foreign document. However, the English Language translations of the documents are no yet received.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1626

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taofiq A. Solola, PhD. JD., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0709.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.


TAOFIQ SOLOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Group 1626

August 29, 2005